

YOR920010159US1
Amendment dated 10/12/2007

09/800,664

00280670PA
Reply to office action mailed 07/12/2007

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-30 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 12, 19, 22 and 30 are amended for the Examiner's consideration. The foregoing separate sheets marked as "Listing of Claims" show all the claims in the application, with an indication of the current status of each .

The Examiner has rejected claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter because the claim "does not recite that the computer program product comprises a computer readable medium having computer readable program instructions or code embodied thereon and configured to control a computer to perform specific functional steps," citing the Computer-Implemented Invention Guidelines. The above amendment substantially follows the preamble language suggested by the Office and recited by the Examiner. It is believed that this ground of rejection is therefore overcome.

The Examiner objects to claim 1 because the word "of" is missing in the phrase "said plurality of attributes" at lines 10-11. The foregoing amendment overcomes this objection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner asserts that the English construction "creating a graphical visual interface based on a coordinate system having a plurality of equidistant, parallel axes" creates an ambiguity as to whether the "plurality of equidistant, parallel axes" belong to the term "a coordinate system" or to the term "a graphical visual interface". The Examiner is mistaken. There is no ambiguity. As will be understood by one skilled in the art of English, the clause "a coordinate system having a plurality of ... axes" clearly and without ambiguity indicates that the phrase "a plurality of ... axes" belongs to "a coordinate system." This conclusion follows from proximity, i.e. the English language convention is that a participial phrase (such as "having a plurality of ... axes") modifies the nearest preceding noun

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(which is “a coordinate system”). Further, it is apparent from context that this construction is correct, since it is appropriate for “a coordinate system” to have “a plurality of ... axes”, and a “graphical visual interface” could be “based on” such a coordinate system.

While “graphical visual interface” could be modified by the participial phrase “having a plurality of ... axes” the proper English construction would then be “graphical visual interface having a plurality of ... axes.” Proximity of the nearest preceding noun is determinative and unambiguous. It should be noted that it would also be a proper English construction to say “a graphical visual interface based on a coordinate system and having a plurality of ... axes.” In this construction, “a graphical visual interface” is modified by two parallel clauses joined by the word “and” (the clauses being “based on a coordinate system” and “having a plurality of ... axes”). In context, this construction would be regarded as clumsy and unclear because “a coordinate system” and “a plurality of ... axes” are not logically parallel in meaning. Indeed, in terms of meaning, “a coordinate system” is defined by “a plurality of ... axes”. Thus the more logical construction would be “a graphical visual interface based on a coordinate system and therefore having a plurality of ... axes.” It is simpler and clearer to drop the parallel construction and omit “and therefore”, which returns us to the original construction, which is proper and unambiguous.

Consequently, this ground of rejection is overcome as to claims 1, 18, 22 and 30 and their dependent claims. Furthermore, the above amendment to the independent claims may further clarify the structure of the interface shown in Figs. 5-14. As to the lack of antecedent basis for the term “the graphical information” in claim 12, the above amendment overcomes that ground of rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3-30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,993,504 to Friesen et al. (“Friesen”) in view of the prior art disclosed in applicant’s specification. Friesen teaches a graphical display as a means to show and compare multiple “semi-fungible” goods

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and their order values. A fungible good is completely interchangeable. For example, one share of a common stock for the same company is the same as any other share of that stock. A “semi-fungible” good is a commodity that is identical except for an attribute that yields a different value. For example, two shares of the same common stock may have different “strike” prices (col. 1, lines 32-40). Traders of semi-fungible goods have the very difficult task of tracking the relative difference in value for semi-fungible goods (col. 1, lines 64-66). Friesen is responding to a problem in the prior art, where a trader “trading thirty or forty or a hundred goods ... would find it difficult to track the activity associated with the different related semi-fungible goods ... [without] ... context to relate the different prices for one semi-fungible good to another” (col. 2, lines 9-12). In the prior art a trader would rely upon a spreadsheet listing of bids and offers and associated price for one semi-fungible good, and require a second spreadsheet showing the same information for a different semi-fungible good. For thirty or forty such goods (e.g. thirty or forty different stocks that a broker may be trading, each with its “semi-fungible” variants) this become unmanageable.

The solution provided by Friesen is a single graphical display, as shown in Fig. 4. It should be noted that each group of “semi-fungible” variants for a given “good” appears on the same vertical axis, and that the different vertical groupings are of different “goods”.

The general concept of graphical displays is, of course, old in the art. The fact that Friesen uses a graphical display does not, by itself, make the present invention obvious. For the purposes of comparing the two inventions it is significant that Friesen’s display for a given group of “semi-fungible” variants – which are being compared for valuation purposes – is on a single vertical axis.

The present invention, by contrast, provides a completely different display concept for completely different kinds of “goods”. The “goods” of the present invention are bids responsive to an RFQ, and the display interface is responsive to a completely different set of problems in the prior art: use of a single number to

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represent multiple attribute values hides important information useful to buyers (page 6, lines 23-25); assigning “weights” to different attributes is extremely difficult (page 7, lines 3-5); and the prior art provides no means to express relationships among different attributes (page 7, lines 10-11). The present invention provides a two-dimensional matrix type display to address these prior art deficiencies, as shown in Figs. 5-14.

It should be emphasized that this two-dimensional matrix (as described in detail in the independent claims) shows attribute values (along the x axis) and corresponding measures (along the y axis) for bids responsive to a single RFQ – and it is these bids which are being compared for valuation purposes. Further, the two-dimensional matrix display, forming a “bid line” for each bid, covers a plurality of attributes across the second dimension of the display. By contrast, the second dimension in Friesen simply accounts for a plurality of different products which the trader is separately tracking. **These separate products are not being compared for valuation purposes.**

It is clear, upon careful examination of the Friesen reference in comparison to the present invention, that Friesen fails to disclose a display for comparing multiple attributes of bids responsive to a single RFQ. It is apparent that the plurality of goods displayed in Friesen has no relationship to the plurality of attributes displayed in the present invention.

The present invention teaches the following, each and all of which are not taught by Friesen: 1) RFQ submission and bid reception (claim 1); 2) a sell bid line (claim 1); 3) user interaction in the interface such as partial bid line selection (claim 4); 4) multimedia rendering of additional information (claim 7); 5) additional information displays (claims 3, 5, 9); 6) tagging and filtering (claims 11, 12); 7) untagging (claim 13); 8) counting of bid lines (claims 14, 15); 9) enlarging and reduction (claims 16, 17); and 10) scrolling (claim 18).

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The claims have been amended to make clear that the "single display" pertains to responses to a single RFQ, in contrast to Friesen's use of the second graphical dimension for display of multiple products being separately tracked and traded by a trader. In Friesen, only a single vertical display dimension is being used for comparison for valuation purposes of a single group of "semi-fungible" goods.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1 and 3-30 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 703-787-9400 (fax: 703-787-7557; email: clyde@wcc-ip.com) to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

If an extension of time is required for this response to be considered as being timely filed, a conditional petition is hereby made for such extension of time. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account 50-0510 (IBM-Yorktown).

Sincerely,



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